**YOUR LEGACY**

**MAKING A WILL IS IMPORTANT**

Making a Will is the best way to ensure that your family, dependants and any other loved ones will be provided for. It is also an opportunity for you to consider making a charitable gift in support of one or maybe more causes that have meant something to you in your lifetime.

**REMEMBERING THE BIMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS**

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens receive no ongoing help from local or national government funding. Our annual running costs of over £1.2m are met by our membership subscriptions, entrance charges and enterprise initiatives. All new developments must be paid for through voluntary donations. We need to spend all the money we raise to maintain and develop The Gardens to a high standard as an important amenity and educational facility.

All legacy income is spent on new projects, education facilities and developing the plant collection. In recent years we have been able to expand our education facilities and programme because of the generosity of individuals remembering The Gardens in their Wills.

**YOUR LEGACY TO THE GARDENS**

If you would like to remember The Gardens in your Will, there are three ways you can do this:

* a gift of a specific amount of money (e.g. £1000), called a “pecuniary legacy”
* a gift or part of your residuary estate (a “residual legacy”)
* a gift of a specific item, such as land or property, an object (such a work of art) or a bank account (a “specific legacy”)

**MAKING A WILL IS EASY**

Decide who will write your Will. We recommend using the help of a Solicitor to do this to ensure everything is legal and valid.

If you would like to make a gift to The Gardens in your Will it would be helpful to provide your Solicitor the following information:

* Our Registered Charity Name: “The Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society Limited”
* Our Registered Charity Number: 528981
* Our Registered Charity Address: Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR

**DID YOU KNOW?**

If Inheritance Tax (“IHT”) is a concern, it worth remembering that that part of your estate that you leave to charity will be exempt from IHT. It is therefore possible to “configure” your estate in such a way as to ensure that no IHT is paid at all. Alternatively, and subject to certain rules being met, if you give 10% of your taxable estate to charity, the remaining 90% will be taxed at only 36% - as opposed to the usual figure of 40%. A Solicitor will be able to properly advise on IHT and other technical matters.

**HOW WE CAN HELP – YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

We offer all our Members a discounted Will Service with our Legal Partner, Thursfields Solicitors. Please telephone Zoe Perry, Solicitor, on 01905 730450 or email her at zperry@thursfields.co.uk, and she can explain how to take advantage of this offer.

Alternatively, If you would like to know more about The Gardens and how your gift may be used please phone and ask to speak to the Chief Executive, James Wheeler, on 0121 454 1860.

**HAVE YOU ALREADY REMEMBERED US?**

If you have already remembered The Birmingham Botanical Gardens in your Will then there is no obligation to tell us, but we would love to hear from you. You can tell us using our [online pledge form](http://www.cats.org.uk/legacy-pledge-form), but rest assured that anything you do tell us will be treated in the strictest confidence and is not legally binding in any way.